

REMARKS

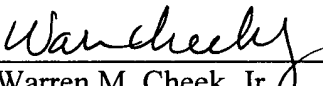
The specification has been amended to reflect the national stage status.

In addition, the claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to incorporate the amendments, including new claim 17, as presented during prosecution of the international application.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Akiho YOKOTA et al.

By 
Warren M. Cheek, Jr.
Registration No. 33,367
Attorney for Applicants

WMC/dlk
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
September 1, 2006